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Immediate Release

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Environment Department Advises Consumers of "Real Guacamole" Product Recall

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has been advised that Productos Real of Anthony, Texas is recalling Real Guacamole, Hot, because it has the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Although healthy individuals may suffer only short-term symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain, and diarrhea. *Listeria* infection can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant women.

"Real Guacamole, Hot" was distributed throughout New Mexico at retail stores and through direct delivery. So far, NMED field staff have found and embargoed the product at supermarkets in Santa Fe and Las Cruces.

The product is packaged in 13 oz. plastic containers labeled "Real Guacamole, Hot" and bears the code and expiration date on the bottom of the plastic tub. The recall includes all codes "MAY 25 2003" through "JUL 15 2003". No illnesses have been reported to date.

The recall was the result of sampling conducted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that revealed that the finished product contained the bacteria. The company has ceased production and distribution of the product. The FDA and the company continued their investigation as to what caused the problem.

Consumers who have purchased "Real Guacamole" should return it to the place of purchase for a full refund. Stores should destroy the product and document recovered product for a refund from Productos Real. Consumers with questions may contact the company at 915-886-3666.

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